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ABSTRACT

This data book for 1994 describes the condition of children in each of Mississippi's 82 counties. The statistical profiles focus on 12 key indicators of child well-being: (1) low birth-weight; (2) infant mortality; (3) poverty; (4) participation in WIC, the special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children; (5) school food programs; (6) births to single teens; (7) single-parent families; (8) child deaths; (9) teen violent deaths; (10) high school graduation; (11) teen unemployment; and (12) juvenile incarceration rate. Each indicator is described and analyzed. Demographic information and statistics for the state data and for the top ten counties are presented for each indicator. Tables with comparative data for previous years from selected counties are also included. The report notes that Mississippi ranks last or nearly last in almost every critical measure of child well-being. Compared to other states, a higher percentage of Mississippi's children: (1) live in poverty; (2) are born to teens; (3) are born with life-threatening low birthweight; and (4) are growing up in single-parent families. Mississippi ranks nearly last in infant mortality, child deaths and the percentage of teens graduating from high school on time. (AA)

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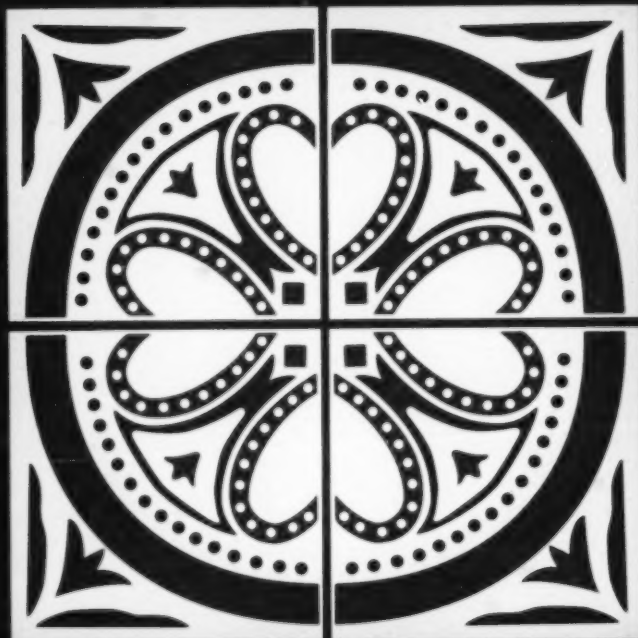
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Deepest Spring in the Heart



KIDS COUNT Mississippi 1994 DATA BOOK

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*Setting out in this world,
a child feels so indelible.*

*The Little Story
The Eye of the Story / Selected Essays and Reviews*

EDDORA WELTY
Jackson

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EUDORA WELTY
as a young girl on the steps of her Jackson home.

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— Mississippi Department of Archives and History

1994 KIDS COUNT Data Book Indicators

	State Data	National Data	MS Rank
Percent Low Birth-weight Babies	9.7	7.1	50
Infant Mortality Rate	11.4	8.9	48
Child Death Rate	41.4	30.7	49
Percent of All Births That Are to Single Teens	16.2	9	50
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate Age 10-17 (per 100,000 youths)	255	457	17*
Percent Graduating from High School on Time	61	68.8	45
Percent Teens Not in School and Not in Labor Force	7.2	5	48
Teen Violent Death Rate Ages 15-19 (per 100,000 Teens)	98.6	71.1	48
Percent Children in Poverty	33.9	20	51
Percent Children in Single-Parent Families	34.9	25.1	50

*Lack of complete records produces low numbers

Mississippians have long valued childhood and family. Mississippi's many well-known writers have chosen as William Faulkner did to write about their "own little postage stamp of native soil." They have used their own families and childhoods, rich and poor, as foundations for unforgettable stories. Eudora Welty says she has always written of the family as the "deepest spring in the heart."

But this strong regard for children compared to their actual status reveals a startling paradox. Many Mississippi children are growing up happy, healthy and loved, with two parents, comfortable homes, plenty to eat, good educations and promising futures. For a constantly increasing number of children, life has never been easy.

Mississippi ranks last or near last in almost every critical measure of child well-being. A higher percentage of Mississippi's children live in poverty than in any other state in the nation. A higher percentage of Mississippi's babies are born to teens. A higher percentage of babies are born with life-threatening low birthweights. And a higher percentage of children are growing up in single-parent families. And Mississippi ranks near last in infant mortality, child deaths and the percentage of teens graduating from high school on time.



DATA

Measuring a child's height requires only a door frame and a yardstick. Measuring the well-being of children requires data. Profiling the overall status of children requires data on where children live, their health, their education and the economic condition of their family. Using selected, reliable "indicators" of the life conditions of children—percent low birth-weight babies, infant mortality, graduation rate, juvenile incarceration rate—we can focus on ways to create better childhoods.

The 1994 KID COUNT Mississippi Data Book uses 12 indicators of child well-being. Each indicator has been defined to explain its significance as a measure for children. Tables of selected data for each of Mississippi's 82 counties and the state are included.

As you study the tables, remember the mathematics of small numbers, especially in calculating rates for small populations, can show alarming increases. Five-year averages are used for infant mortality rates to allow for this problem. Actual numbers have been provided in the tables for some measures, such as child death rates.



CHILDREN

One of every three Mississippians is a child, making children an important part of our state's population—the very visible future. From 1980 to 1990, the state's child population decreased slightly in both number—814,197 to 746,761—and in proportion to the remainder of the population—32 to 29 percent. The child population increased in only seven of Mississippi's 82 counties in the '80s. Yet Mississippi is still one of the youngest states in the nation, ranking sixth in the percentage of its population under age 18.

Almost half of Mississippi's children are children of color. Of these children, 45.2 percent are African American, 0.6 percent are Asian American and 0.4 percent are Native American.



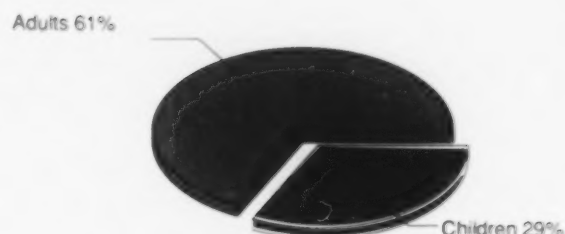
FAMILIES

Families in Mississippi are changing. More than half of Mississippi's children still live with two parents, but an increasing number live with single parents. Although single-parent families have increased nationally, Mississippi has the highest percentage of children living in single-parent families in the nation. One quarter of Mississippi's families are headed by a single-parent, an increase of 36 percent in the '80s. Nearly one in ten Mississippi children live with a grandparent, almost double the national percentage.

More Mississippi children today have working parents. More than two-thirds—65.1 percent—of all of Mississippi's children have two working parents or a working single parent. More than two-thirds—63.8 percent—of Mississippi's preschool-age children have working mothers and almost three-fourths—72.3 percent—of the state's school-agers have working moms.

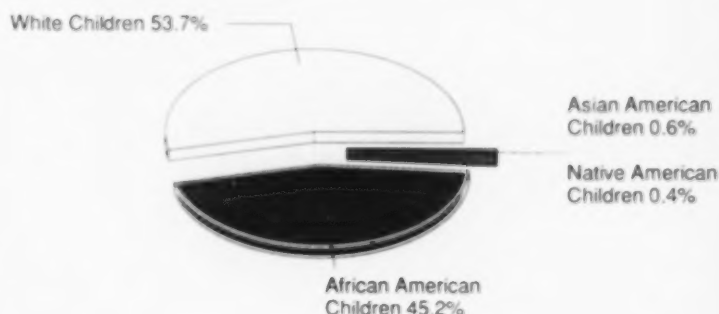
1 in 3 Mississippians is a Child

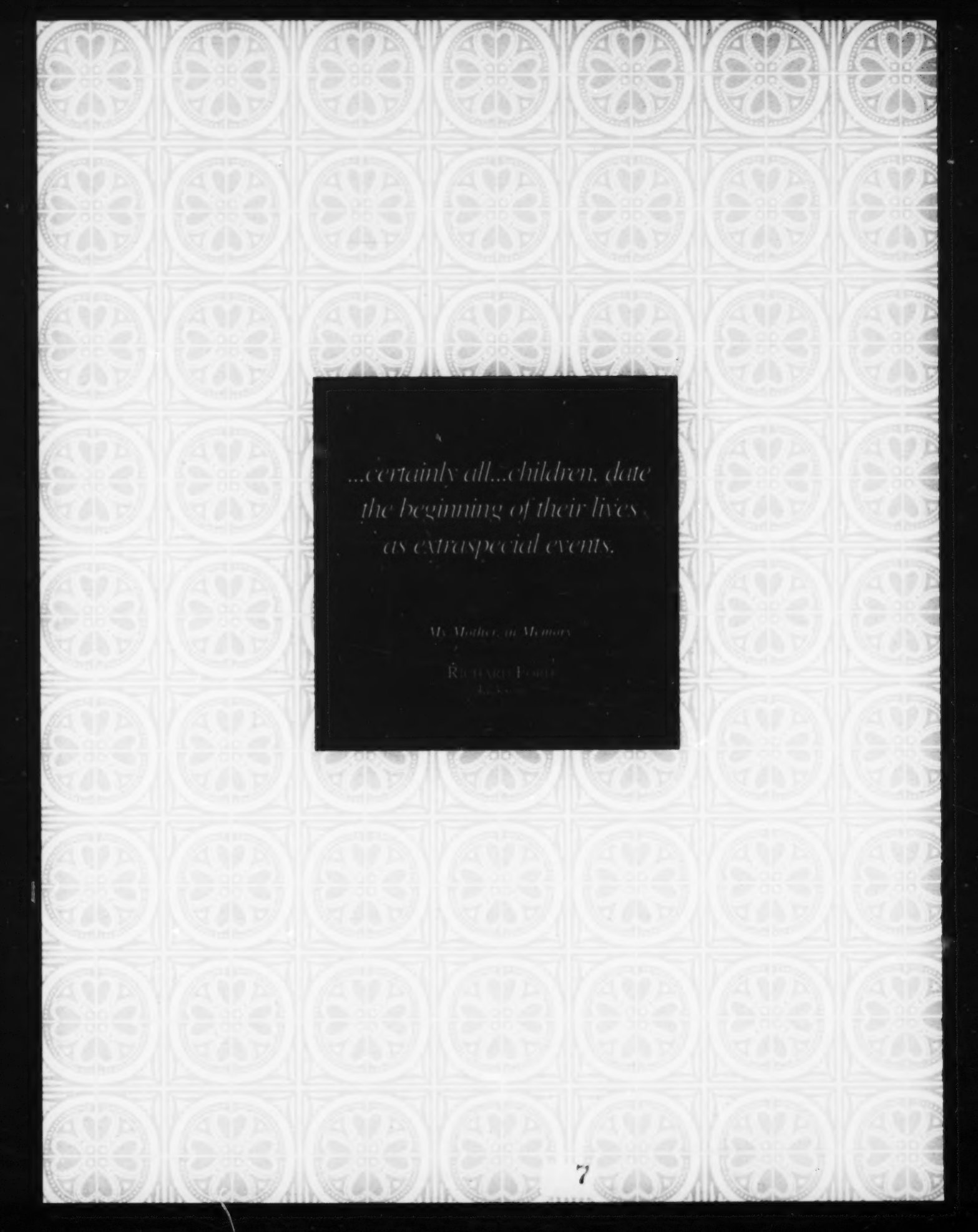
*Population Under Age 18
as a Percent of the Total Population, 1990*



Almost Half of Mississippi's Children Are Children of Color

Mississippi's Child Population by Race, 1990





*...certainly all...children, date
the beginning of their lives
as extraspecial events.*

My Mother, in Memory

RICHARD POWELL

ILLUSTRATIONS BY



RICHARD FORD
with his parents Parker and Edna Ford on VJ Day.
August 15, 1945, in City Park in New Orleans.

**Mississippi Counties
with Top Ten Highest
Percentage of Low
Birth-weight Babies
Born in 1993**

Issaquena	19.2
Calhoun	17.0
Jefferson	16.2
Tippah	15.8
Walthall	15.0
Franklin	14.4
Noxubee	14.1
Quitman	13.2
Copiah	13.0
Grenada	13.0

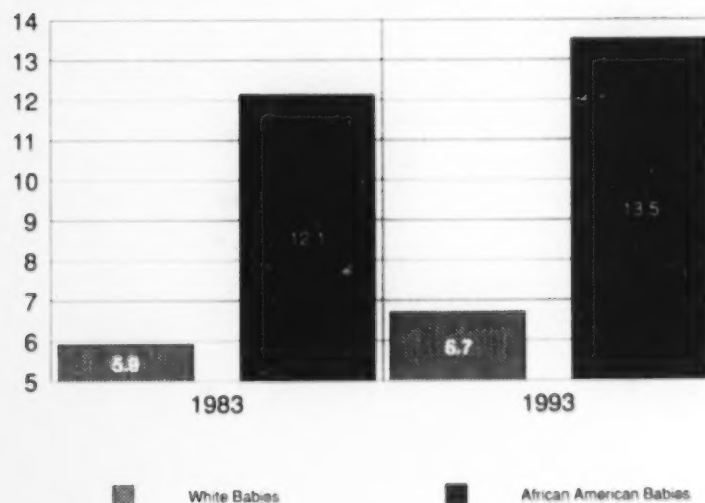


LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

Low birth-weight babies weigh less than 5 1/2 pounds at birth—only ounces more than a sack of flour. Low birthweight babies are 40 times more likely to die in their first month of life. Babies born with low birthweights are more likely to be born to teen mothers, to unmarried, less educated or poor mothers, or to mothers who did not receive prenatal care. Low birth-weight babies who survive their first year of life often have chronic health problems and learning difficulties.

Because so many babies in Mississippi are born to teen mothers, Mississippi has one of the highest percentages of low birth-weight babies in the nation. In 1993, 4,246 low birth-weight babies were born in Mississippi. Two-thirds of these tiny babies were African American, and one-third were white. The birth of low birthweight babies increased 13 percent from 1983 to 1993, in keeping with an increase in births to teens.

**Percent of Mississippi Babies Born
Weighing Less Than 5 1/2 lbs., by Race, 1983 and 1993**





INFANT MORTALITY

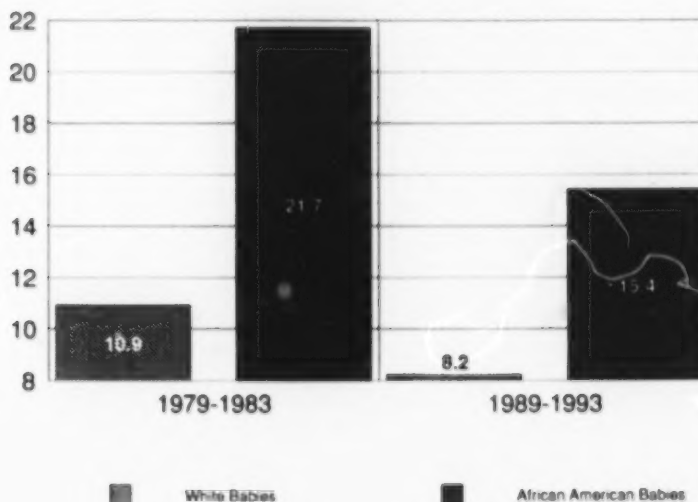
The infant mortality rate measures the number of deaths to babies within their first year of life per 1,000 live births. This rate mirrors both the mothers' and babies' health, their living conditions and the care babies receive. Low birth-weight babies and babies born to families living below the poverty level with limited access to health care are more likely to die in the first year of their lives.

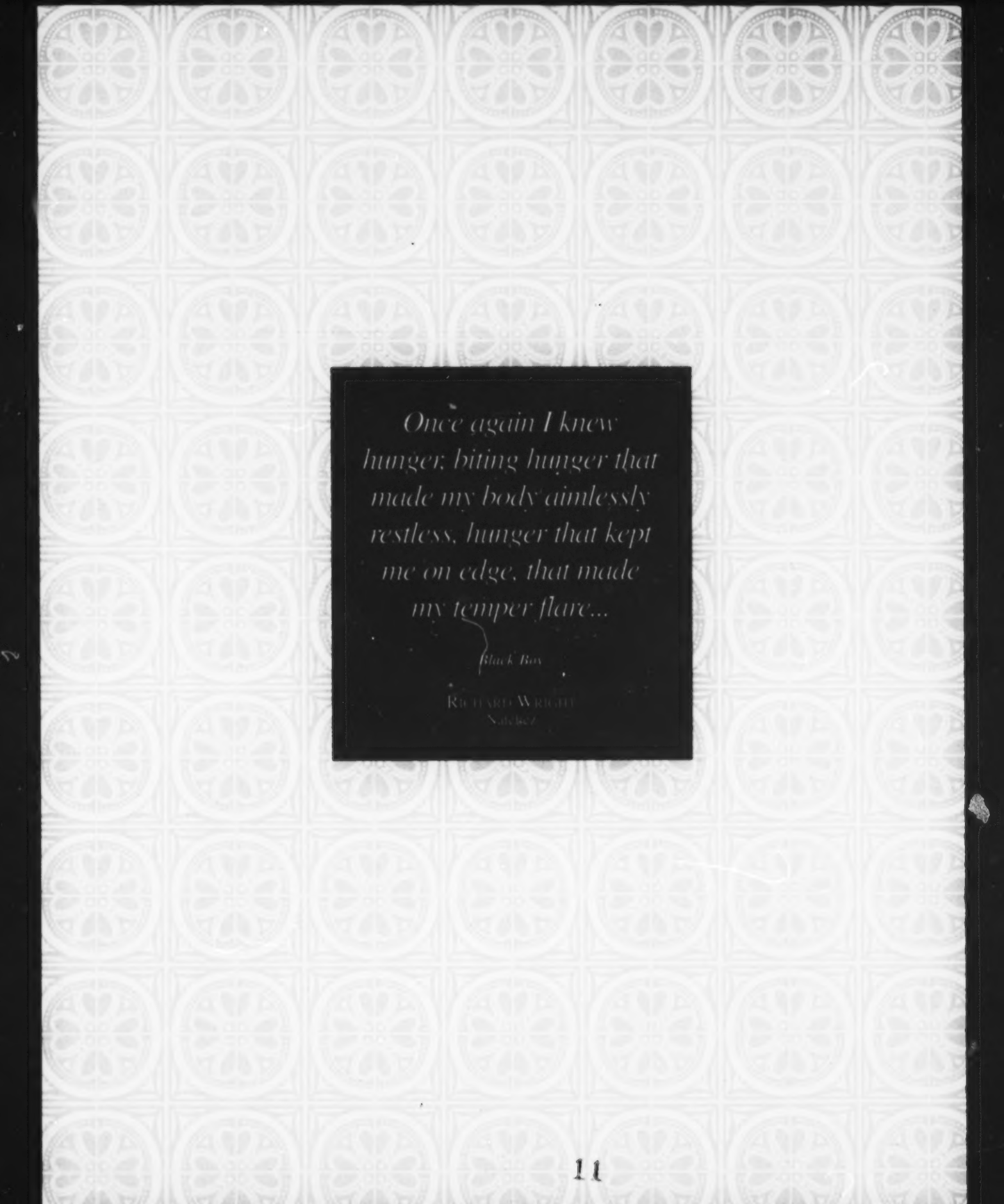
Mississippi's infant mortality rates have steadily declined in the past ten years, decreasing in all but a handful of counties. At the state level, the infant mortality rate average of 11.7 for 1989-1993 showed a 27 percent improvement over the 1979-1983 average of 16.1. But the state infant mortality rate is still higher than the national rate, and some Mississippi counties have among the highest infant mortality rates in the nation. African American infant mortality rates are almost double the white rates.

Mississippi Counties with Top Ten Highest Infant Mortality Rates, 1989-1993

Calhoun	21.8
Marshall	19.3
Webster	19.3
Coahoma	17.9
Union	17.6
Leflore	17.4
Perry	17.1
Tunica	17.0
Humphreys	16.9
Noxubee	16.6

Mississippi Infant Mortality Rates, by Race, 1983 and 1993





*Once again I knew
hunger, biting hunger that
made my body aimlessly
restless, hunger that kept
me on edge, that made
my temper flare...*

Black Boy

RICHARD WRIGHT
Natchez



RICHARD WRIGHT
as an eighth grade student at
Smith Robertson School in Jackson

**Mississippi Counties with
Top Ten Highest
Percentage of Children
Living in Poverty, 1989**

Holmes	68.0
Tunica	67.3
Issaquena	62.3
Humphreys	60.0
Sharkey	59.0
Coahoma	57.7
Bolivar	54.7
Sunflower	54.3
Jefferson	54.0
Tallahatchie	53.9



POVERTY

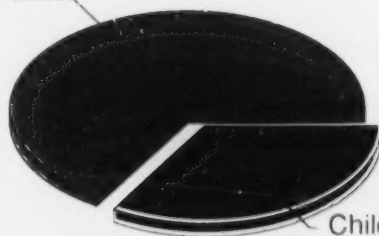
Children are poor when their families are poor. Poor families lack the necessary income to provide for their children's basic needs—food, housing and clothing. The choice between a trip to the doctor for a chronically ill child or food for the entire family is an everyday choice for families living in poverty. The federal government uses guidelines based on income and family size to measure poverty.

Mississippi has the highest percentage of children living in poverty in the nation. One in three—33.5 percent—Mississippi children live in poverty. Poverty shows no preference for urban or rural children in Mississippi. Children live in poverty in inner-city neighborhoods in the state capitol of Jackson, in small town neighborhoods across the state and in rural counties in the Delta. The majority of children living in poverty are located in the western counties of the state. Several Mississippi counties have poverty rates of over 60 percent—among the highest in the nation.

1 in 3 Mississippi Children Lives in Poverty

Percent of Children Living in Poverty, 1989

Children Living Above
the Poverty Level 66.5%



Children Living
in Poverty 33.5%



WIC

Well-nourished babies grow to be healthy children. WIC, the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, provides supplemental food packages to pregnant women and new mothers, their babies and young children up to age 5. Food packages are tailored to the nutritional needs of participants: cereal, fruit juice, egg and milk products for mothers and children, and formula, cereal and juice for babies. To be eligible, the woman or child must meet either income standards or risk factors determined by the federal government.

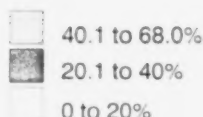
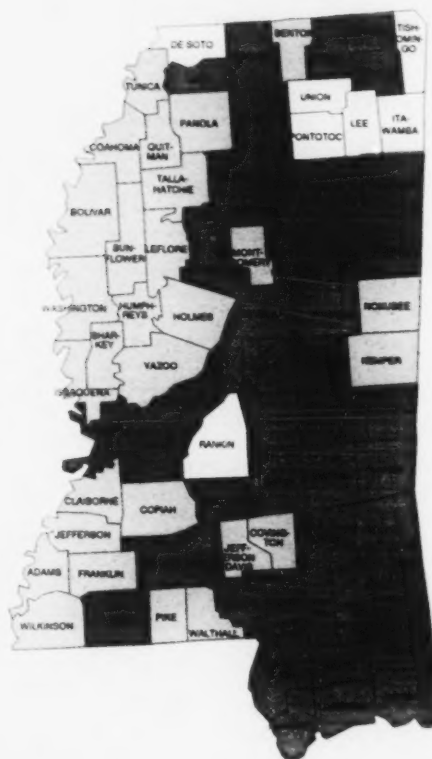
In fiscal year 1993, a total of 141,948 mothers, babies and children participated in the WIC program in Mississippi. This is an estimated 75 percent of those eligible for the program.

SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

It's hard to learn on an empty stomach. Federal funds support lunch and breakfast programs to eligible children in public schools. Children receive free meals or pay a reduced fee based on their family's income.

In 1993, almost two-thirds—59.4 percent—of Mississippi's public school students were eligible for the free and reduced lunch program. Depending on the income status of their residents, some county school districts have well over 80 percent of their students eligible for the program.

Percent of Children Living in Poverty, 1989



Mississippi Counties with Top Ten Highest WIC Participation as Percentage of Total Eligible, July 1994

Jefferson	106
Itawamba	104
Jasper	102
Stone	100
Chickasaw	98
Montgomery	98
Quitman	94
Attala	93
Leflore	92
Leake	91

Mississippi Counties with Top Ten Highest Percentage of Students Eligible for Free Lunch Program, Oct. 1993

Jefferson	94.7
Tunica	94.0
Humphreys	91.9
Noxubee	90.0
Claiborne	88.7
Sharkey	88.5
Quitman	87.7
Wilkinson	86.5
Coahoma	85.0
Bolivar	84.7

65

*During his time Lena did all
the housework and took care of
the other children. Later she
told herself, 'I reckon that's
why I got one so quick myself.'*

Light in August

WILLIAM FAULKNER
1938



WILLIAM FAULKNER,
center, with his brothers, from left,
Murray, Dean and John.

**Mississippi Counties with
Top Ten Highest
Percentage of Births to
Single Teens, 1993**

Tallahatchie	31.6
Coahoma	30.2
Sharkey	29.1
Leflore	29.0
Tunica	28.4
Bolivar	28.3
Sunflower	27.5
Claiborne	27.2
Issaquena	26.9
Washington	26.6

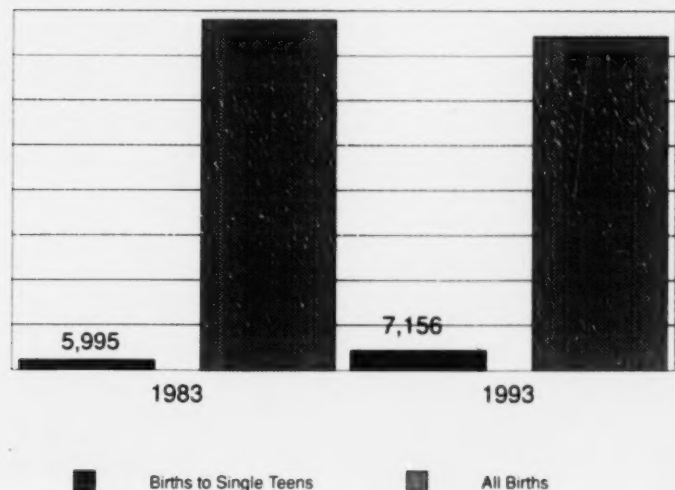


BIRTHS TO SINGLE TEENS

The birth of a baby to an unmarried teen mother creates a future risk for both the baby and the mother. Single teen mothers are less likely to marry or complete high school, creating single-parent families more likely to live in poverty. Children of single teen mothers are less likely to receive early, comprehensive prenatal care and are more likely to grow up at-risk of emotional and social problems. The percent of births to single teens reports the percentage of all babies born who were born to single teen mothers.

In 1993, 42,134 babies were born in Mississippi. More than one in six—7,156—babies were born to single teen mothers. Births to unmarried teen mothers have increased 25 percent from 1983 to 1993. While more babies were born in Mississippi ten years ago, only one in seven was born to a single teen mother.

**Births to Single Teens as
Part of All Births, 1983 and 1993**





SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

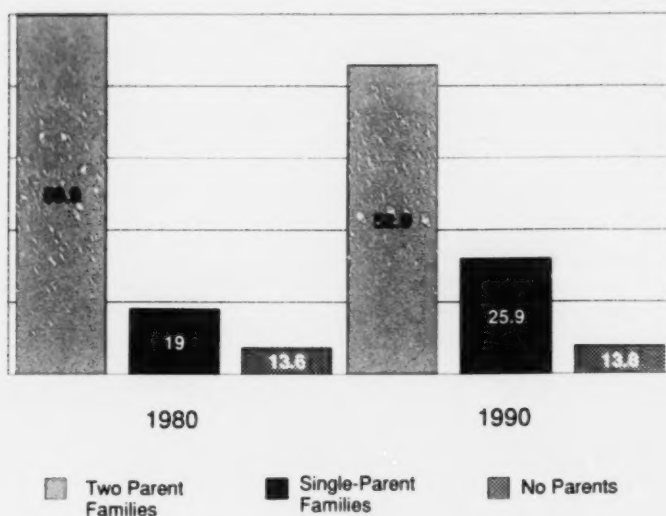
Single-parent families often mean disadvantage for children. An astounding three-fourths of Mississippi's youngest children, those under age 5 who live only with their mother, live in poverty. Many of those whose family income exceeds the poverty level still find themselves with limited access to health care and other support services—and at greater risk for adverse outcomes.

Single parent families increased by 36 percent from 1980 to 1990. One quarter—25.9 percent—of Mississippi's children now live in single-parent families. Almost 90 percent of these children from single-parent families live with their mother.

Mississippi Counties with Top Ten Highest Percentage of Children Living in Single-Parent Families, 1990

Holmes	43.2
Claiborne	42.8
Jefferson	39.7
Leflore	38.6
Bolivar	38.0
Tunica	37.8
Coahoma	36.8
Humphreys	36.5
Washington	36.4
Sunflower	33.5

Percentage of Children Living with Two Parents, a Single Parent or No Parents, 1980 and 1990



*An M-80 is a very serious
firecracker:... I thought he
was bleeding directly out of
his eye...I thought we'd
blinded him, but we hadn't.*

*Journal of the Pacific
Airships*

BARRY HANNAH
Chilton



BARRY HANNAH
as a ten year old boy in Clinton.

**Mississippi Counties with
Top Ten Highest Child
Death Rates, 1993**

Hinds	29
Jackson	13
Harrison	11
Calhoun	8
Bolivar	7
Rankin	7
Coahoma	6
Lee	6
Warren	6
Washington	6

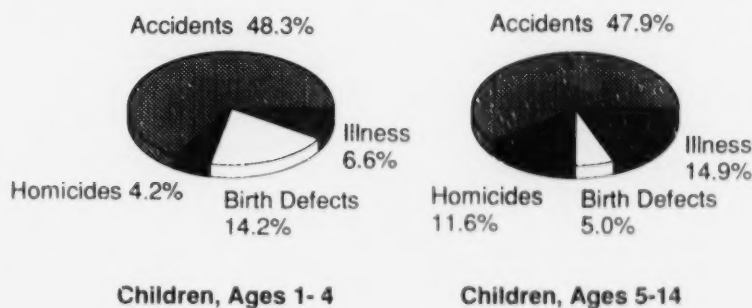


CHILD DEATHS

Children deserve safe and healthy lives. The child death rate reports deaths to children ages 1 through 14 from illness, injury, homicide and suicide. This rate measures risks to children from health problems such as poor birth outcomes, illness and untreated chronic conditions. It also reports accidental deaths caused by inadequate safety and supervision and deaths resulting from intentional harm. The rate is calculated by county per 100,000 children.

Although Mississippi's child death rate improved 21 percent from 1983 to 1993, the state still has one of the highest child death rates in the nation. Almost half of the children ages 1 to 14 who died in 1993 were accident victims, but the second most common cause of death varies by age. Congenital birth defects were the second most common cause of death for 1 to 4 year olds, while homicide was the second most common cause of death for 5 to 14 year olds.

Child Deaths Ages 1 - 14 by Cause, 1993





TEEN VIOLENT DEATHS

Teens can live risky lives. The violent deaths of teens reflect their behavior, emotional health and access to health care. While the violent deaths of teens most often result from accidents, usually motor vehicle accidents, their deaths are also caused by suicide and increasingly by homicide. The teen violent death rate measures the number of deaths of teens ages 15 to 19 per 100,000 teens.

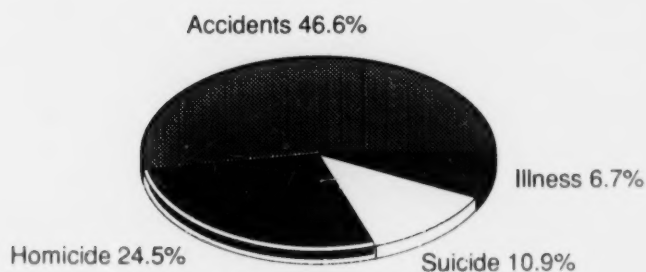
Mississippi also has one of the highest teen violent death rates. Almost half of the teen deaths in 1993 were caused by accidents. A quarter of the remaining deaths were caused by homicide.

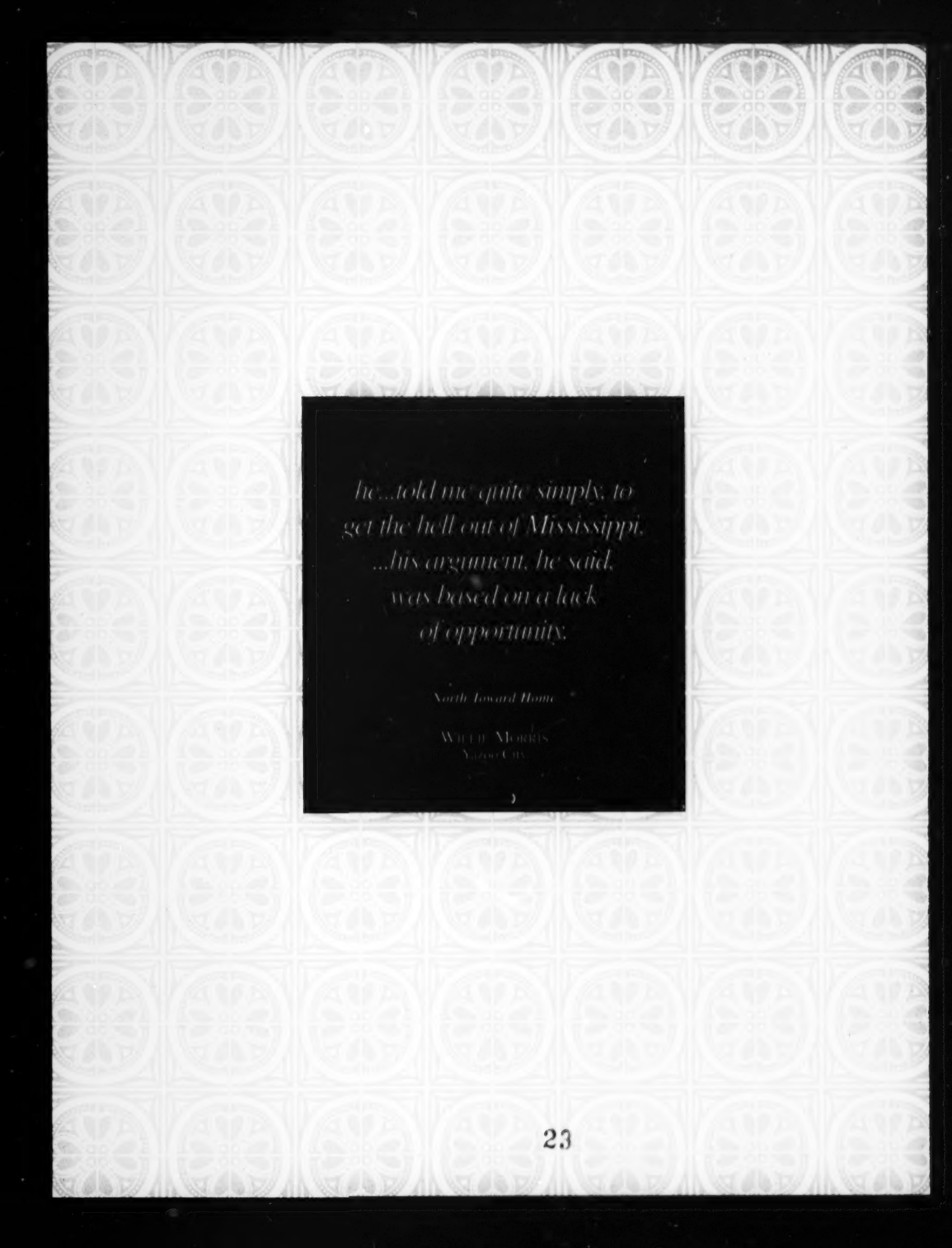
Mississippi Counties with Top Ten Highest Teen Violent Death Rates, 1993

Hinds	17
Jackson	13
Lee	10
Harrison	9
Pearl River	8
Washington	7
Bolivar	6
Grenada	6
Panola	6
Rankin	6

Teen Violent Deaths by Cause, 1993

Includes Ages 15-24





*he...told me quite simply, to
get the hell out of Mississippi.
...his argument, he said,
was based on a lack
of opportunity.*

North toward Home

WILLIE MORRIS
Yazoo City



WILLIE MORRIS
as a college student at the University of Texas.

**Mississippi Counties with
Top Ten Best Graduation
Rates, 1993**

Sharkey	100
Tishomingo	100
Lamar	90.3
Choctaw	90.1
Tippah	88.5
Wilkinson	88.2
Noxubee	87.4
Hinds	87.3
George	86.2
Franklin	85.8

**Mississippi Counties with
Top Ten Worst
Graduation Rates, 1993**

Carroll	49.3
Coahoma	58.6
Sunflower	61.4
Quitman	63.0
Lawrence	63.6
Lee	66.1
Tallahatchie	66.7
Montgomery	67.0
Hancock	67.1
Benton	67.7



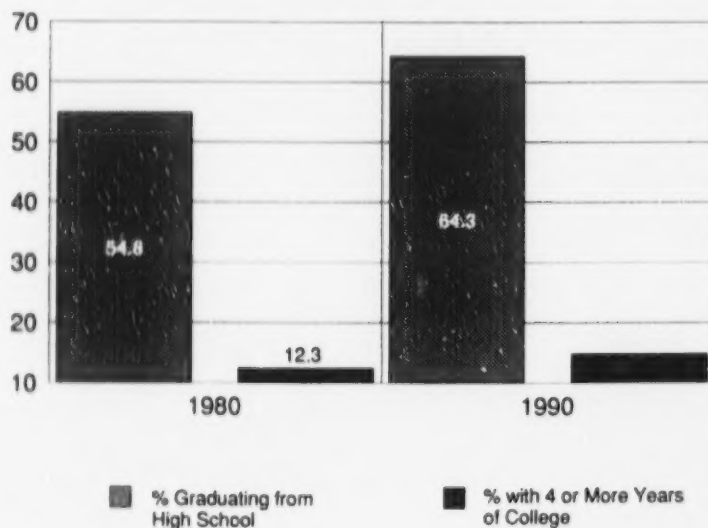
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Graduation from high school is considered a rite of passage into adulthood. It indicates knowledge and skills and suggests future prospects for employment and earning. While the income gap between high school graduates and college graduates has increased, high school graduation still reduces the risk of living in poverty. The graduation rate is usually measured by dividing the number of seniors graduating from high school by the number of students counted in the ninth grade four years earlier.

More than three-fourths of Mississippi's public school seniors graduated from high school in 1993. This was a 3 percent increase from the number of students graduating in 1989. Census data for 1990 shows 64.3 percent of all Mississippians over age 25 have a high school education, an increase from 1980, but this 1990 data also shows only 14.7 percent of the state's adults over age 25 held at least a bachelor's degree.

**Years of School Completed,
1980 and 1990**

Persons 25 Years Old and Over





TEEN UNEMPLOYMENT

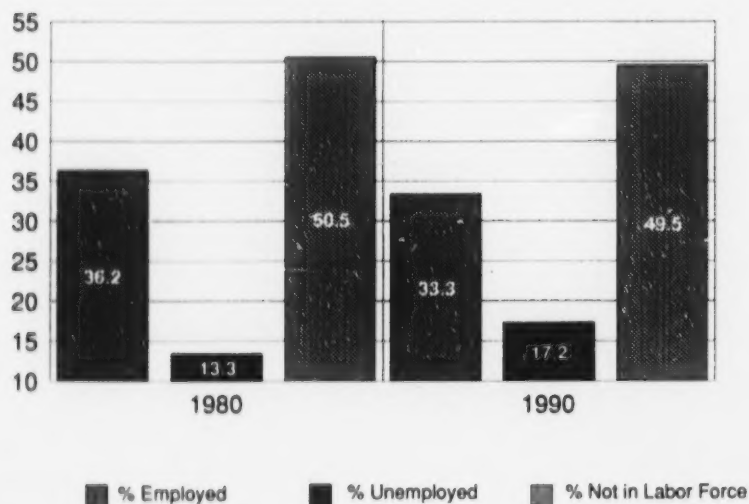
Work experience is critical for young adults. If teens are not in school and not working, they are not going forward with their lives; they are not making that important transition to self-sufficiency. Teens without plans for their future are at risk of becoming single parents or becoming involved in crime.

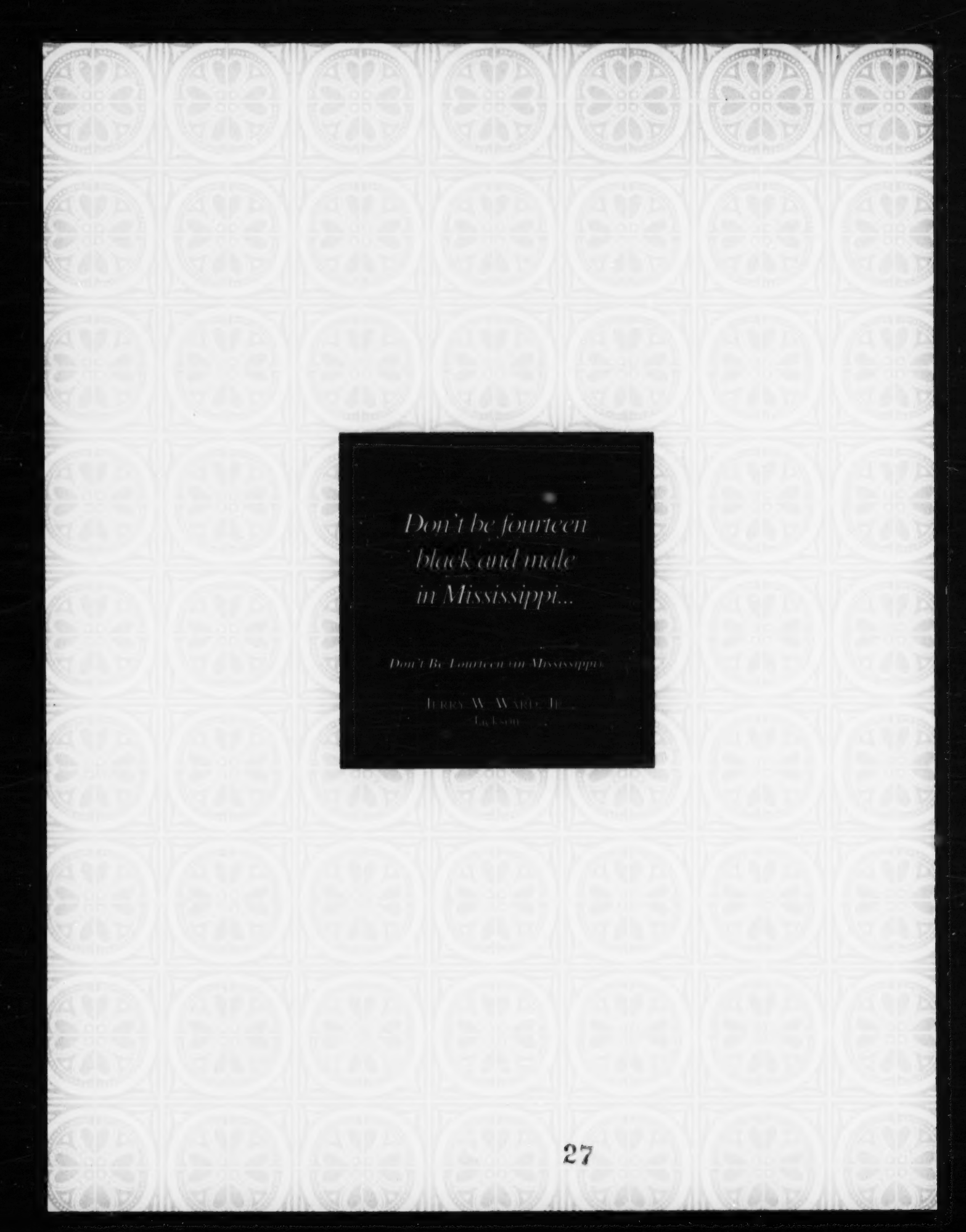
There was a considerable decrease in the number of Mississippi teens 16 to 19 years old not in school and not working, from 35,787 or, 17.1 percent of state teens in 1980, to 21,168 or 11.8 percent in 1990. Mississippi still has a higher percentage of unemployed teens than other states in the nation.

Mississippi Counties with Top Ten Highest Percentage of Teens Ages 16-19 Not Enrolled in School and Not in the Labor Force, 1990

Coahoma	14.0
Jefferson	13.5
Tishomingo	13.2
Adams	12.6
Wayne	12.6
Benton	12.1
Bolivar	12.0
Leflore	11.7
Hinds	11.6
Marshall	11.6

Teen Dropout Unemployment, 1980 and 1990





*Don't be fourteen
black and male
in Mississippi...*

Don't Be Fourteen in Mississippi

JERRY W. WARD, JR.
Tulsa, Oklahoma



JERRY W. WARD, JR.
as an infant playing in the snow in
Washington, D.C., in 1944. He moved
to Mississippi when he was six.

**Mississippi Counties with
Top Ten Highest Juvenile
Incarceration Rates,
FY1994**

Coahoma	18.8
Grenada	15.6
Humphreys	14.3
Montgomery	13.3
Lee	13.1
Forrest	12.5
Wayne	11.9
Leflore	11.8
Sunflower	11.5
Winston	11.4



JUVENILE INCARCERATION RATE

Children in juvenile facilities miss out on family life, a traditional school setting and being a part of the community, although some may not have these key components that make for a healthy adolescence in their lives at all. Violence and crime have become an increasing reality in children's lives. The juvenile incarceration rate measures the number juveniles ages 10 to 18 per 1,000 juveniles incarcerated in state-supported juvenile facilities. It does not include counts for juveniles incarcerated in adult facilities or private facilities.

**Juveniles Committed
to State Institutions by Race, 1991**

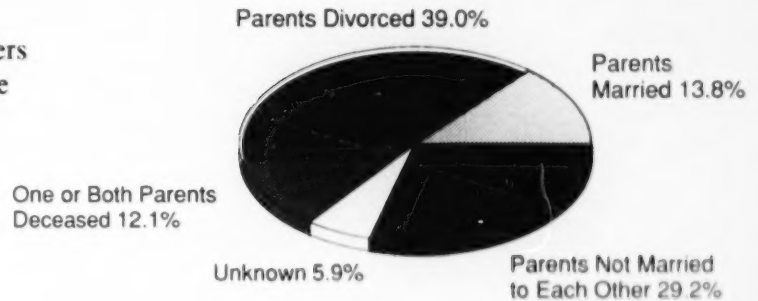
Source: 1991 Youth Court Report, Division of Youth Services,
Mississippi Department of Human Services



Juveniles Committed to State Institutions by Family Status, 1991

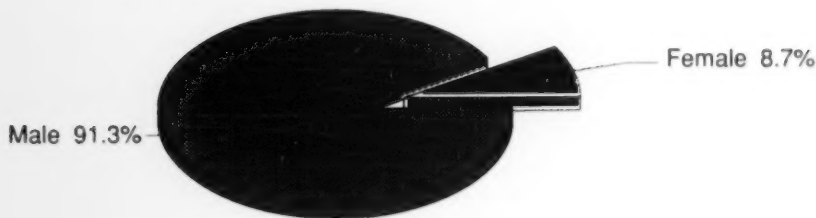
Source: 1991 Youth Court Report, Division of Youth Services, Mississippi Department of Human Services

Like other states, Mississippi's juvenile incarceration rate is increasing. In the short period of time from state fiscal year 1991 to state fiscal year 1993, the number of juveniles incarcerated increased by 39 percent. Most often, Mississippi's juvenile offenders are black males from single-parent families who are below their expected educational level.



Juveniles Committed to State Institutions by Sex, 1991

Source: 1991 Youth Court Report, Division of Youth Services, Mississippi Department of Human Services



Anna stared at her parents' backs. There they sat, frozen into the mold of parenthood, her father bald, stout, stern, gentle, and preoccupied, her mother corseted and erect, loving and irritable, a refuge and a gadfly. Were you ever really a little girl, were you ever bad, or sad or sick like me?

A Family's Affairs

ELLEN DOUGLAS
Natchez



ELLEN DOUGLAS
as a young girl in Natchez.

Selected Data - Adams County to Lee County

	Total Population	Population Under Age 18	Pop Under Age 18 As % of Total	% Low Birth-Weight Babies		% C H A N G E	Infant Mortality Rate		% C H A N G E	% Children Living in Poverty		% C H A N G E	WIC Participation As % of Total Eligible		% C H A N G E	% of Students Eligible for Free Lunch*		% C H A N G E	% Births to Single Teens		% C H A N G E	% Children Living in Single- Parent Families		% C H A N G E	Child Death Rate		% C H A N G E	Teen Violent Death Rate		% C H A N G E	Graduation Rate*		% C H A N G E	% Teens Ages 16-19 Not in School and Not in Labor Force		% C H A N G E	Juvenile Incarcerations				% C H A N G E	
	1990	1990	1990	1993	1983		1989- 1979- 1993 1983			1990	1980		July 1994	Oct. 1992		Oct. 1993	Oct. 1991			1993	1983			90	1980		#	Rate	#	Rate		1993	1989		1990	1980		#	Rate	#	Rate	
Mississippi	2,573,216	746,761	29.0	10.1	8.9	13	12 16 -27	34 30.0	12	70	76 -9	59.4	60.4	-2	17.0	13.6	25.9	19.0	36	241	41	296	52	-21	234	105.0	201	77.6	35	76.0	73.6	3	9.1	8.6	5	2,210	6.5	1,587	4.7	39		
Adams	35,356	10,242	29.0	12.0	7.9	52	13.5 16.0 -16	42.1 35.8	18	75	84 -10	68.6	67.7	1	20.2	14.2	41.8	24.9	28	4	50	5	60	-18	3	110.3	4	102.3	8	77.7	52.3	40	12.6	5.4	132	40	8.7	27	5.9	48		
Alcorn	31,722	8,089	15.4	10.3	8.8	17	8.8 13.4 -34	25.3 20.1	26	43	55 -22	34.1	34.6	-1	10.3	8.3	18.7	12.8	46	1	16	4	57	-72	3	122.1	1	35.2	247	75.9	69.5	9	8.8	7.8	10	19	4.8	8	2.0	138		
Amite	13,328	3,910	29.3	12.6	10.1	25	4.6 12.8 -64	37.8 34.4	10	67	75 -12	78.0	78.6	-1	13.2	13.5	12.4	14.7	52	1	33	3	96	-66	2	186.0	2	150.5	24	78.3	70.5	11	9.9	9.3	7	11	5.9	5	2.7	120		
Attala	18,481	5,046	27.3	7.0	8.6	-19	9.8 17.7 -45	37.7 38.2	-1	93	100 -7	64.9	64.2	1	18.3	15.0	22.9	16.8	37	1	26	0	0	***	4	271.7	0	0	0	80.1	77.4	3	8.2	13.7	-40	7	3.0	5	2.1	40		
Benton	8,046	2,398	29.8	12.0	9.6	25	8.5 9.2 -8	41.2 31.4	31	64	94 -32	76.0	76.1	-0	19.4	11.2	11.3	13.0	64	1	52	1	53	-1	0	0.0	0	0	0	67.7	89.6	-24	12.1	16.1	-25	3	2.7	0	0.0	***		
Bolivar	41,875	14,167	33.8	10.3	11.7	-12	15.5 23.4 -34	54.7 52.1	5	71	75 -5	84.7	84.3	0	28.3	24.4	18.0	27.1	40	7	64	2	16	287	6	134.2	3	56.1	139	81.0	73.3	11	12.0	9.5	26	41	6.4	28	4.4	46		
Calhoun	14,908	3,922	26.3	17.0	9.0	89	21.8 21.6 -1	27.0 27.2	-1	80	73 10	50.7	52.8	-4	18.0	13.3	11.9	13.0	68	8	267	2	59	354	3	256.0	0	0	0	78.5	73.0	8	7.0	8.1	-13	3	1.7	7	3.9	-57		
Carroll	9,237	2,651	28.7	5.8	13.5	-57	15.1 17.3 -13	37.3 34.6	8	44	46 -4	81.9	79.2	3	17.5	14.4	20.5	14.4	42	1	48	1	46	6	0	0.0	2	197.2	-100	49.3	90.7	46	8.6	11.6	-26	2	1.6	2	1.6	0		
Chickasaw	18,085	5,405	29.9	10.2	8.4	21	13.2 16.0 -18	26.0 23.8	9	98	107 -8	55.6	55.2	1	15.5	13.2	13.3	15.8	47	1	23	2	48	-52	0	0.0	2	117.7	-100	82.4	73.7	12	4.3	10.2	58	7	2.9	1	0.4	600		
Choctaw	9,071	2,740	30.2	10.6	9.5	12	8.3 9.3 -11	29.2 31.7	-8	70	60 16	57.2	56.2	2	15.4	12.7	12.1	16.0	38	1	47	0	0	***	0	0.0	0	0	0	90.1	61.8	46	10.7	8.2	30	0	0.0	1	0.7	-100		
Clallborne	11,370	3,184	28.0	12.6	8.3	52	12.3 21.6 -43	52.1 39.8	31	72	89 -18	88.7	88.4	0	27.2	17.0	12.8	27.2	57	2	80	0	0	***	0	0.0	1	60.6	-100	83.9	71.9	17	6.7	2.5	167	2	1.3	1	0.7	100		
Clarke	17,313	5,016	29.0	9.8	10.3	-5	11.8 14.0 -16	30.9 23.6	31	72	81 -11	54.0	53.6	1	12.8	13.5	5.1	18.0	57	3	77	5	131	-41	2	144.3	1	63.4	128	78.4	69.2	13	8.7	11.8	-25	5	2.1	3	1.3	67		
Clay	21,120	6,533	30.9	9.4	9.0	4	14.4 16.8 -14	33.3 30.8	8	72	84 -15	74.9	72.4	3	21.0	13.1	10.3	20.6	47	2	39	1	21	90	3	154.3	0	0	0	70.7	64.9	9	11.1	8.0	39	15	5.0	5	1.7	200		
Coahoma	31,665	10,814	34.2	11.7	11.5	2	17.9 27.4 -35	57.7 51.4	12	67	69 -3	85.0	84.3	1	30.2	26.3	16.8	27.7	33	6	71	1	11	560	2	68.7	7	167.0	-59	58.6	56.5	4	14.0	16.4	-15	93	18.8	46	9.3	102		
Copiah	27,592	8,257	29.9	13.0	8.9	46	11.8 11.7 -1	41.4 34.7	19	66	80 -17	75.7	74.8	1	20.5	15.6	15.9	20.2	29	2	32	4	69	-54	1	33.1	5	160.3	-79	77.5	85.5	-9	7.9	10.4	-24	23	5.9	13	3.4	77		
Covington	16,527	5,105	30.9	9.3	7.0	33	12.5 22.4 -44	40.1 35.2	14	76	83 -8	56.3	57.1	-1	15.6	17.3	14.0	15.5	55	1	25	3	82	-69	2	143.7	0	0	0	78.2	88.8	-12	5.6	17.4	-68	5	2.1	4	1.7	25		
DeSoto	67,910	19,612	28.9	7.5	6.8	10	8.5 12.9 -34	13.7 19.9	-31	72	84 -15	25.1	24.3	3	10.6	8.1	16.8	12.6	34	5	33	6	44	-25	2	37.1	2	34.1	9	77.0	76.5	1	9.3	6.8	36	41	4.7	15	1.7	173		
Forrest	68,314	17,725	25.9	10.5	8.1	30	13.0 13.5 -4	36.4 26.2	39	62	74 -16	48.6	48.3	1	14.7	12.7	0.2	21.4	41	2	15	9	70	-79	3	46.6	7	100.8	-54	83.0	70.1	18	10.8	6.2	74	95	12.5	104	13.7	9		
Franklin	8,377	2,479	29.6	14.4	6.8	112	13.3 19.9 -33	46.0 37.3	23	74	105 -29	55.3	55.7	-1	18.3	11.6	14.3	15.2	61	1	51	0	0	***	2	298.5	2	267.7	12	85.8	62.1	38	5.5	5.0	10	9	8.2	2	1.8	350		
George	16,673	5,049	30.3	6.3	7.1	-11	3.9 12.6 -69	33.3 19.3	73	59	71 -17	38.6	37.2	4	11.6	8.4	13.8	9.2	50	1	26	2	52	-51	0	0.0	1	66.6	-100	86.2	65.7	31	8.8	10.7	-18	2	0.8	6	2.5	67		
Greene	10,220	3,072	30.1	4.2	8.4	-50	11.3 14.3 -21	32.2 25.5	26	70	62 13	52.9	56.3	-6	9.1	13.0	19.4	10.7	81	2	84	4	159	-47	2	226.2	0	0	0	74.4	65.5	14	6.2	10.2	-39	3	2.0	0	0.0	***		
Grenada	21,555	6,285	29.2	13.0	9.2	41	10.6 13.8 -23	28.1 29.4	-4	81	103 -22	53.5	51.6	4	18.5	18.2	4.7	20.2	22	0	0	7	146	-100	6	346.6	3	147.1	136	68.7	60.8	13	9.2	10.9	-16	45	15.6	35	12.1	29		
Hancock	31,760	8,683	27.3	6.8	8.9	-24	8.6 9.6 -10	30.9 23.7	31	66	96 -31	53.7	53.3	1	13.9	8.4	10.5	13.3	54	2	30	4	73	-59	1	41.4	3	120.0	-66	67.1	63.4	6	9.0	11.0	-18	34	8.5	33	8.2	3		
Harrison	165,365	45,488	27.5	9.1	8.3	10	9.8 12.2 -20	26.6 21.7	23	57	67 -15	46.3	43.7	6	13.1	8.6	13.8	19.4	23	11	31	15	45	-32	9	87.5	11	62.4	8	70.3	70.4	-0	9.4	7.2	31	166	8.7	111	5.8	50		
Hinds	254,441	70,978	27.9	11.9	9.7	23	11.5 14.6 -21	29.2 25.5	15	60	69 -14	56.4	56.9	-1	18.3	14.1	10.5	25.1	22	20</																						

Selected Data - Leflore County to Yazoo County

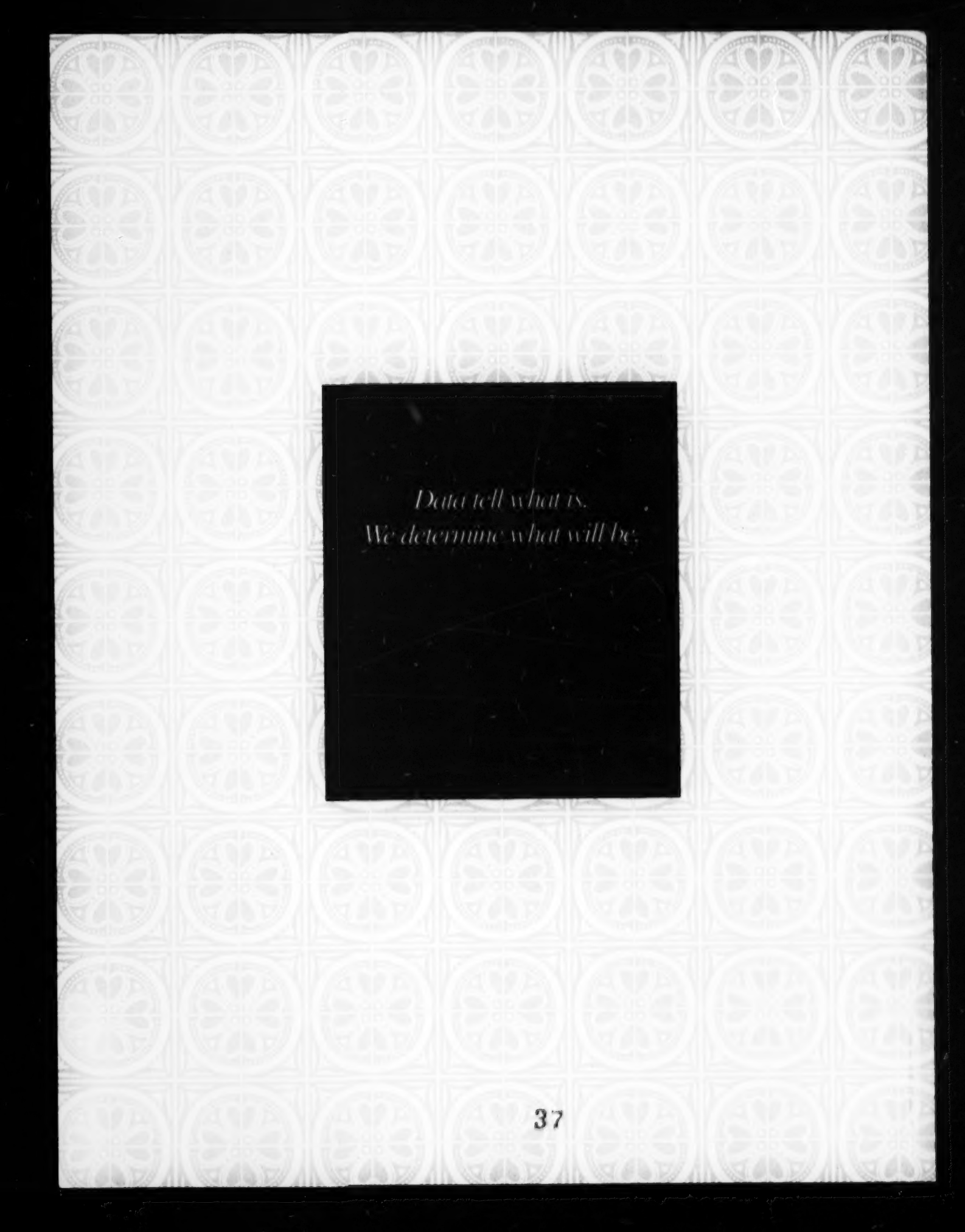
	Total Population	Population Under Age 18	Pop Under Age 18 As % of Total	% Low Birth-Weight Babies	% C H A N G E	Infant Mortality Rate	% C H A N G E	% Children Living in Poverty	% C H A N G E	WIC Participation As % of Total Eligible	% C H A N G E	% of Students Eligible for Free Lunch*	% C H A N G E	% Births to Single Teens	% Children Living in Single- Parent Families	% C H A N G E	Child Death Rate	% C H A N G E	Teen Violent Death Rate	% C H A N G E	Graduation Rate*	% C H A N G E	% Teens Ages 16-19 Not in School and Not in Labor Force	% C H A N G E	Juvenile Incarcerations	% C H A N G E																		
	1990	1990	1990	1993	1983	1989- 1979- 1993 1983		1990 1980		July 1994	Oct. 1992	Oct. 1993	Oct. 1991	1993	1983	90	1980	1993 #	1983 Rate	1993 #	1983 Rate	1993 #	1989 Rate	1990	1980	FY1994 #	FY1991 Rate																	
Mississippi	2,573,216	746,761	29.0	10.1	8.9	13	12	16	27	34	30.0	12	92	83	11	59.4	60.4	-2	17.0	13.6	5.9	19.0	36	241	41	296	52	-21	234	105.0	201	77.6	35	76.0	73.6	3	9.1	8.6	5	2,210	6.5	1,587	4.7	39
Leflore	37,341	12,012	32.2	11.5	10.6	8	17.4	27.9	-38	53.3	45.2	18	82.6	80.1	3	29.0	22.0	-8.6	26.2	47	4	42	6	60	-30	5	147.7	2	42.4	248	72.0	75.8	-5	11.7	9.1	29	64	11.8	56	10.3	14			
Lincoln	30,278	8,592	28.4	7.6	9.6	-21	8.5	13.2	-36	28.0	26.9	4	50.7	50.6	0	18.8	14.1	-1.0	15.4	36	1	16	1	15	-4	5	191.9	1	35.9	435	85.7	92.8	-8	9.4	6.8	39	35	8.3	42	9.9	17			
Lowndes	59,308	17,598	29.7	8.7	7.6	14	14.0	17.6	-20	20.9	29.8	0	59	67	-13	46.3	45.5	2	14.5	11.5	7.8	21.4	30	5	36	8	62	-41	0	0.0	1	16.9	-100	73.4	80.0	-8	8.7	8.4	4	53	7.0	34	4.5	56
Madison	53,794	15,919	29.6	9.6	10.1	-5	10.9	18.9	-42	35.2	38.1	-8	61	60	2	68.8	67.6	-1	15.7	15.4	7.9	24.1	16	2	18	4	40	-60	3	73.2	5	111.9	-35	74.0	99.7	-26	10.1	10.1	0	63	9.4	35	5.2	80
Marion	25,544	7,786	30.5	7.8	7.5	4	13.4	10.8	24	38.2	31.1	23	78	70	10	63.1	61.4	3	14.6	9.7	0.9	14.4	44	3	50	3	52	-4	4	181.5	3	120.5	51	69.8	76.0	-8	6.9	9.6	-28	2	0.5	7	1.9	-71
Marshall	30,361	9,094	30.0	12.8	9.6	33	19.3	13.2	46	37.6	40.4	7	77	80	-3	79.5	79.4	0	19.1	15.2	6.1	18.9	38	2	28	6	84	-67	2	73.9	3	85.8	-14	73.9	70.6	5	11.6	11.7	-1	33	7.9	25	6.0	32
Monroe	36,582	10,490	28.7	8.5	7.4	15	12.8	20.1	-36	28.7	26.7	7	79	83	-5	45.6	47.8	-5	14.2	10.1	3.9	17.1	40	2	25	4	48	-49	2	65.4	1	29.2	124	79.2	77.1	3	9.3	8.5	10	12	2.5	8	1.7	50
Montgomery	12,388	3,534	28.5	7.6	10.8	30	14.8	16.3	-9	46.7	35.9	30	98	97	0	63.8	63.7	0	16.9	21.7	-8.7	16.7	71	3	110	0	0	***	2	195.7	1	76.9	154	67.0	67.2	0	9.8	12.9	24	22	13.3	4	2.4	450
Neshoba	24,800	7,405	29.9	9.5	5.3	79	14.2	12.6	13	34.0	27.2	25	53	75	-29	49.1	48.3	2	15.7	11.4	1.9	13.7	59	4	70	3	55	27	4	184.3	4	189.8	-3	76.1	78.8	-3	4.3	11.1	61	17	4.8	11	3.1	55
Newton	20,291	5,582	27.5	8.7	5.0	74	8.4	10.2	-18	25.0	27.0	-7	79	77	2	51.2	49.7	3	13.7	12.9	2.0	14.0	57	5	117	2	49	140	3	154.2	0	0.0	***	78.7	57.0	38	5.6	9.5	41	4	1.5	7	2.6	43
Noxubee	12,604	4,264	33.8	14.1	8.2	72	16.6	20.8	-20	52.4	54.0	-3	91	99	-8	90.0	89.7	0	20.9	16.5	1.8	22.1	44	2	60	0	0	***	1	90.7	1	70.0	30	87.4	94.9	-8	11.3	9.5	19	6	3.2	6	3.2	0
Oktibbeha	38,375	8,662	22.6	8.2	11.0	-25	9.2	17.4	-47	31.9	31.2	2	77	84	-7	85.4	83.2	3	14.7	12.4	9.8	19.4	54	1	16	3	47	-68	1	20.4	0	0.0	***	75.3	71.8	5	6.2	2.9	111	23	6.2	16	4.3	44
Panola	29,996	9,562	31.9	12.4	8.7	43	9.8	21.8	-55	44.9	43.0	5	60	72	-17	72.9	70.4	4	24.7	19.7	7.8	20.6	35	2	27	6	89	-70	6	216.1	2	67.2	222	81.8	73.7	11	8.0	11.1	-28	35	8.0	7	1.6	400
Pearl River	38,714	11,204	28.9	9.4	9.9	-5	7.4	15.4	-62	27.4	26.4	4	62	69	-9	44.9	42.7	5	13.5	11.6	9.1	11.9	60	2	23	1	13	78	8	237.7	4	112.6	111	69.7	75.6	-8	7.2	7.7	-6	17	3.3	6	1.2	183
Perry	10,865	3,405	31.3	8.7	6.6	32	17.1	12.2	40	38.3	27.0	42	61	82	-26	55.8	55.2	1	10.4	10.8	8.7	13.2	41	0	0	0	0	***	1	103.1	2	195.1	-47	81.8	71.9	14	7.0	7.3	-5	4	2.5	1	0.6	300
Pike	36,882	11,098	30.1	11.4	9.9	15	7.6	19.8	-62	43.3	36.2	20	82	77	6	61.0	60.8	0	18.2	14.0	9.9	21.7	38	4	46	5	60	-24	3	89.3	5	140.6	-36	81.6	74.7	9	9.9	7.4	33	42	7.9	34	6.4	24
Pontotoc	22,237	6,028	27.1	7.8	5.3	47	11.2	12.3	-9	19.3	20.6	-6	60	59	2	32.0	31.1	3	8.3	7.0	5.8	11.8	34	1	22	2	45	-52	1	57.7	2	103.3	-44	80.0	77.2	4	3.5	6.3	-44	13	4.7	2	0.7	550
Prentiss	23,278	6,008	25.8	10.5	6.0	75	11.0	11.4	-4	25.2	16.1	56	71	81	-13	41.8	40.5	3	12.4	7.0	7.5	12.3	43	0	0	0	0	***	1	46.2	2	85.0	-46	73.7	65.7	12	7.8	4.1	91	15	5.4	6	2.1	150
Quitman	10,490	3,471	33.1	13.2	12.6	5	14.9	23.2	-36	51.8	53.8	-4	94	65	46	87.7	88.3	-1	23.5	26.7	-7.9	20.8	34	1	38	3	92	-59	0	0.0	1	72.6	-100	63.0	44.5	42	9.6	11.9	-19	10	6.0	5	3.0	100
Rankin	87,161	24,102	27.7	8.3	7.0	19	8.7	9.9	-12	12.9	14.1	-8	70	74	-5	29.5	28.3	4	9.9	6.6	6.3	11.7	39	7	37	6	38	-1	6	90.6	5	76.4	19	84.1	84.5	-0	7.0	8.3	-16	31	2.8	46	4.1	33
Scott	24,137	7,285	30.2	10.7	7.0	53	12.8	18.7	-32	34.9	33.4	4	81	103	-22	58.2	56.4	3	17.5	10.7	5.4	16.1	57	1	18	4	70	-74	4	196.8	4	167.9	17	68.5	67.4	2	5.2	15.0	-65	31	9.4	15	4.5	107
Sharkey	7,066	2,598	36.8	12.6	10.7	18	11.1	25.2	-56	59.0	51.9	14	90	85	6	88.5	86.1	3	29.1	30.5	0.4	22.7	34	2	100	1	45	124	1	135.0	1	113.4	19	100.0	74.4	34	8.6	8.5	1	8	6.4	1	0.8	700
Simpson	23,953	7,085	29.6	10.0	8.8	14	14.9	18.1	-18	27.3	22.7	20	68	77	-12	58.9	58.4	1	15.3	13.1	1.4	13.8	55	4	72	3	56	29	1	52.1	2	91.2	-43	76.3	78.6	-0	9.3	10.7	-13	10	3.0	2	0.6	400
Smith	14,798	4,203	28.4	8.1	7.2	13	12.0	17.2	-30	30.8	26.2	17	75	85	-12	49.3	48.1	2	11.6	8.3	4.7	9.2	61	0	0	4	119	-100	1	81.3	5	361.0	-77	70.4	61.8	14	6.9	12.1	-43	6	3.1	3	1.5	100
Stone	10,750	3,062	28.5	8.4	6.8	24	7.8	7.2	8	34.7	24.8	40	100	136	-27	47.1	44.3	6	15.8	11.6	1.3	13.3	61	0	0	0	0	***	2	174.5	1	78.2	123	82.9	55.0	51	7.8	7.8	0	9	6.4	5	3.6	80
Sunflower	32,867	10,445	31.8	10.8	10.6	2	16.5	20.6	-20	54.3	50.7	7	74	81	-9	83.5	81.8	2	27.5	22.6	3.5	23.8	41	2	25	4	46	-47	5	158.4	1	26.9	489	61.4	55.5	11	9.3	16.5	-44	56	11.5	75	15.5	-25
Tallahatchie	15,210	5,043	33.2	11.4	13.5	-16	13.7	23.0	-40	53.9	55.1	-2	85	96	-12	83.8	82.7	1	31.6	27.0	0.4	22.8	33	1	26	1	23	12	2	136.5	3	153.5	-11	66.7	60.3	11	7.7	11.1	-31	6	2.5	6	2.5	0
Tate	21,432	6,282	29.3	6.9	10.2	-32	9.1	17.5	-48	31.0	30.9	0	82	105	-22	48.2	46.6	3	13.8	13.5	0.3	16.3	25	2	41	4	90	-55	3	139.5	0	0.0	***	74.0	68.2	9	7.8	5.9	33	9	3.1	2	0.7	350
Tippah	19,523	5,274	27.0	15.8	7.5	111	9.8	18.5	-47	28.2	24.7	14	62	58	8	44.8	45.6	-2	9.3	7.5	6.3	11.7	40	0	0	4	98	-100	2	127.1	2	115.1	10	88.5	66.5	33	10.2	10.0	2	5	2.0	3	1.2	67
Tishomingo	17,683	4,171	23.6	7.3	8.5	-14	11.3	16.0	-29	23.9	12.2	97	77	100	-22	36.8	38.5	-4	3.7	4.0	3.9	9.0	54	2	62	5	142	-56	1	79.9	2	122.6	-35	100.0	76.1	31	13.2	6.7	96	4	2.1	0	0.0	***
Tunica	8,164	3,087	37.8	12.8	13.4	-4	17.0	29.1	-42	67.3	62.5	8	65	199	-67	94.0	95.0	-1	28.4	32.6	7.8	27.0	40	2	84	1	37	129	2	237.2	2	181.2	31	84.1	68.6	23	9.7	12.1	-20	11	7.6	4	2.8	175
Union	22,085	5,834	26.4	9.5	6.5	46	17.6	11.5	53	18.1	22.0	-18	89	79	13	29.8	29.6	1	10.4	6.1	6.1	11.7	37	1	22																			

Note: Percent Change - negative number shows improvement, positive number shows worsening of indicator with the exception of the Graduation Rate where a positive number indicates improvement.

*County Average Used for Counties with Multiple School Districts

**Issaquena County data combined with Sharkey County

***No increase in number or an increase in number from 0 to any higher number creates error in computation.



*Data tell what is.
We determine what will be.*



DEEPEST SPRING IN THE HEART...
The Children of Mississippi



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Children become adults—it's the age-old progression of life. We must invest our time in children by creating memorable childhoods—childhoods that can be shared in unforgettable literature—childhoods that produce prize-winning writers—childhoods that produce adults who can grasp and form Mississippi's future.

IF YOU ARE A POLICYMAKER, YOU CAN:

- learn about the needs of children and families in your constituency; visit programs and service sites in your area, and
- support funding of services and programs that work to improve the lives of children and their families.

IF YOU ARE AN EMPLOYER, YOU CAN:

- develop family friendly work places to meet the needs of working parents, and
- encourage your employees to learn about programs in your community that serve children and families.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL, YOU CAN:

- learn about child and family friendly programs in your community and get involved, and
- help to involve more children and youth in the activities of your community.

SOURCES

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Population Under Age 18 - 1990 Census of Population General Population Characteristics, Mississippi, Table 1.

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Percentage Births to Single Teens - KIDS COUNT Mississippi Calculations from Vital Statistics Mississippi 1993, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health, Table 3A and Special Table - Teen Births to Single Mothers by County; Vital Statistics Mississippi 1983, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health, Table 3A and Special Table - Teen Births to Single Mothers by County.

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Child Death Rate - Data provided by Division of Public Health Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health.

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KIDS COUNT Mississippi is a project of the Mississippi Forum on Children and Families

Jane P. Boykin, President

Alma C. Ellis, KIDS COUNT Mississippi Project Coordinator

525 Woodland Hills Building

3000 Old Canton Road

Jackson, MS 39216

Telephone 601/366-9091 Fax 601/982-8055

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